VISIT…

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RAZORLINE
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SUPER HEROES FROM CLIVE BARKER
HYPERKIND
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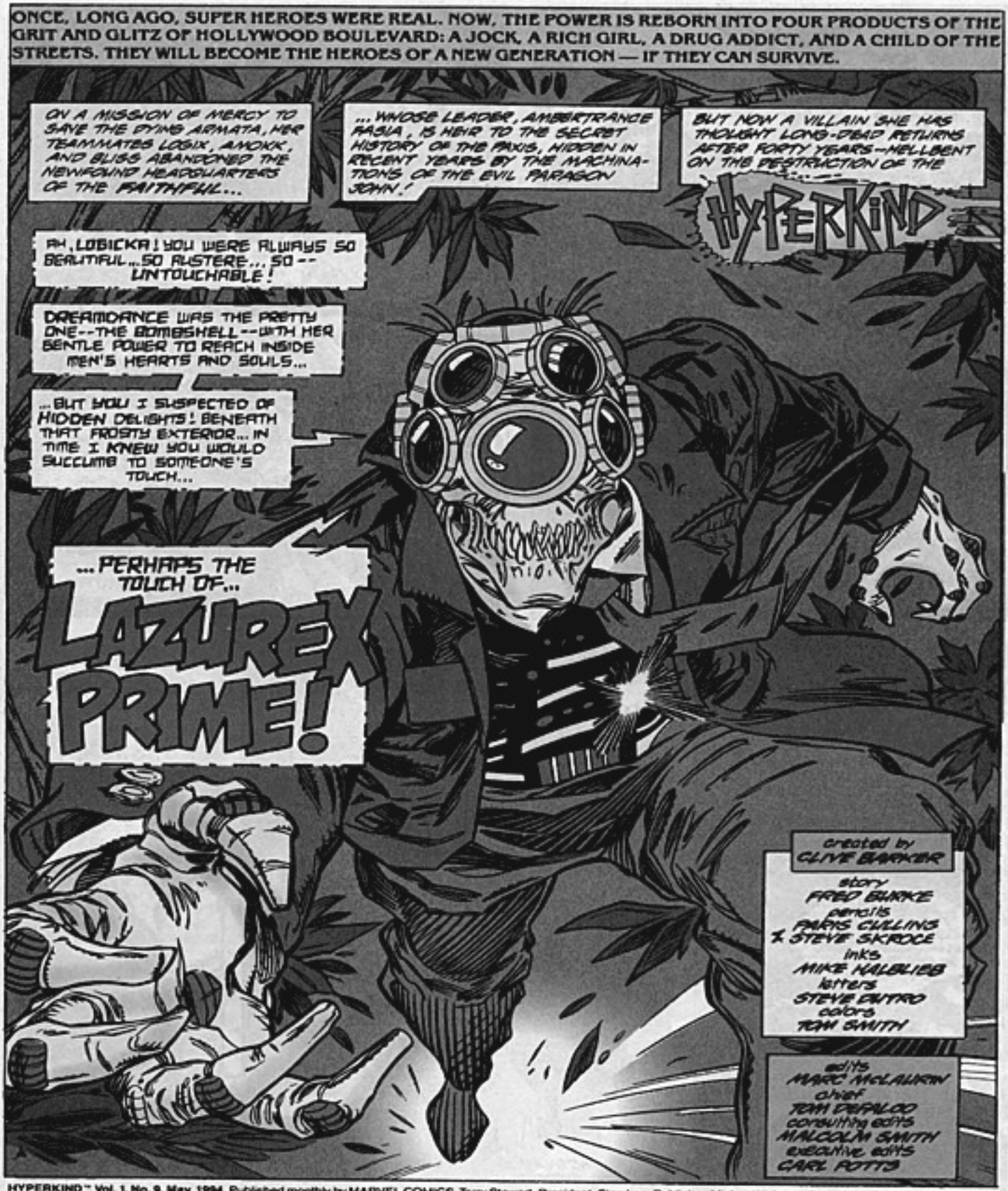
ONCE, LONG AGO, SUPER HEROES WERE REAL. NOW, THE POWER IS REBORN INTO FOUR PRODUCTS OF THE GRIT AND GLITZ OF HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD: A JOCK, A RICH GIRL, A DRUG ADDICT, AND A CHILD OF THE STREETS. THEY WILL BECOME THE HEROES OF A NEW GENERATION — IF THEY CAN SURVIVE.
ON A MISSION OF MERCY TO SAVE THE DYING ARMATA, HER TEAMMATES LOBIX, AMOKK, AND BLISS ABANDONED THE NEWFOUND HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAITHFUL...
...WHOSE LEADER, AMBERTRANCE FASIA, IS HEIR TO THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE PAXIS, HIDDEN IN RECENT YEARS BY THE MACHINATIONS OF THE EVIL PARAGON JOHN!
BUT NOW A VILLAIN SHE HAS THOUGHT LONG-DEAD RETURNS AFTER FORTY YEARS--HELLBENT ON THE DESTRUCTION OF THE...
HYPERKIND
AH, LOBICKA! YOU WERE ALWAYS SO BEAUTIFUL...SO AUSTERE... SO-- UNTOUCHABLE!
DREAMDANCE WAS THE PRETTY ONE--THE BOMBSHELL--WITH HER GENTLE POWER TO REACH INSIDE MEN'S HEARTS AND SOULS...
...BUT YOU I SUSPECTED OF HIDDEN DELIGHTS! BENEATH THAT FROSTY EXTERIOR... IN TIME I KNEW YOU WOULD SUCCUMB TO SOMEONE'S TOUCH...
...PERHAPS THE TOUCH OF...
LAZUREX PRIME!
created by CLIVE BARKER
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inks MIKE HALBLEIB
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LAZUREX, THE ROBOT MASTER--BUT YOU WERE KILLED DECADES AGO!
OH, NO, MY PRETTY--THOUGH THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER...FOR BOTH OF US!
MY FLAME HAS BURNED FOR YOU ALL THESE YEARS, LOGICKA...THE FLAME OF THWARTED LOVE...
...THE FLAME OF VENGEANCE!
ALTHOUGH I AROSE IN A WORLD THAT HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE PRAXIS, I COULD NOT FORGET!
THE MEMORIES WERE TRAPPED IN THE MEMORY BANKS OF DATRX...
"...ONE OF MY ROBOSQUAD MINIONS, BUT YOU REMEMBER THEM, SURELY? AFTER ALL--YOU PRAXIS SO VICIOUSLY DESTROYED MY GREATEST CREATIONS!"
DO NOT HARM THESE PRAXIS, MY COMRADES! JUST IMMOBILIZE THEM! MAKE THEM MY CAPTIVES!
"I LOVED YOU SO...YOU AND YOUR PLAYMATES. BUT MY AFFECTIONS WERE NEVER RETURNED."
YOU GOT IT, DR. L! ONE ELECTRIC LULO-BOLT, IN A JIFFY!
ACTIVATING ATOMIC PLASMA GENERATOR!
FLOOM!
DATAX REPORTING! LULO AND PLAZ HAVE HIT THEIR TARGETS!
LET SQUIIF GIVE YOU A HAND!

" IT WAS THE MOST HORRIFYING DISPLAY OF RAW POWER I HAD EVER SEEN...
NOOO! DR. L!
OOOOMSKSHT
NO, LET CLARION GIVE YOU A HAND!
"...BLASTING MY PRECIOUS LULO FROM HER ELECTRO-BUBBLE...
RELEASE HER!
"...AND ENCASING SQUIF IN A MIGHTY FIST OF STEEL DEBRIS!"
THAT LIGHT--IT'S LIKE I COULD NEVER SEE BEFORE! ALL MY PETTY CONQUESTS ON EARTH--SO POINTLESS IN THE COSMIC SCHEME...
...WHILE ALL ALONG, THE UNIVERSAL CREATIVE SPARK WAS WORKING THROUGH ME--TO CREATE MY ROBO-SQUAD!
EEK! YOU'RE DELIRIOUS!
"THAT'S WHEN YOU GOT INTO THE ACT--USING YOUR POWER AS LOGICKA TO ENTER MY MALFUNCTIONING ROBOT'S CIRCUITRY..."
REACTOR CORE UNSTABLE! WARNING!

"DREAMDANCE REACHED INTO MY DEEPMIND TO ACCESS MY DEAREST FANTASY...
"...WHERE SHE ANGRILY DISCOVERED MY PASSION-- FOR YOU, LOGICKA.
YOU SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR WHAT YOU WISH FOR, BUSTER!
"SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN PERVERSE DELIGHT...
"...IN GRANTING MY DREAM THE SEMBLANCE OF REALITY...
ZZZ
ZAP
AAGH!
DOC L.!
"...CASTING THE ILLUSION OF YOUR FORM ONTO THE METAL FLESH OF MY ROBOT MAIDEN!
--gasp--
"BY THE TIME DATAX HAD TORN THE TWO OF US APART...
"...IT WAS TOO LATE! LAZUREX THE ROBOT MASTER HAD BREATHED HIS LAST.
"OR SO YOU HOPED."

"I MIGHT HAVE SHARED THE SAME FATE, TRAPPED WITHIN THE TRANSISTORIZED MIND OF YOUR ATOMIC ROBOT...
"...HAD NOT CLARION PLUCKED ME FREE FROM THE SAFELY DE-ACTIVATED SCRAPYARD HULK!
"SO YOU ALMOST SACRIFICED YOURSELF, EH, LOGICKA? A HEROINE TO THE END--LEAVING ME AND MY METAL MASTERPIECES FOR DEAD!
OUR JOB HERE IS DONE! LET'S GO!
BUT MY ROBO-SQUAD WERE HEROES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT!
HE--HE CREATED US!
WE CAN'T JUST LET HIM DIE!
"LOADING ME INTO THE MO-BOT, THEY RETURNED ME TO MY LABORATORY.
"THE PAIN I SUFFERED WAS BEYOND IMAGINING--UNTIL MY NERVES WERE AT LAST REPLACED WITH CIRCUITS, AND I BLESSEDLY WENT NUMB!
"...AND ALONE! THEY HAD SACRIFICED THEIR OWN PARTS FOR MY RESURRECTION!"
MO-BOT... LULO... PLAZ... DATAX... SQUIF...
...YOU LIVE ON IN ME--AND I WILL NOT LET YOUR DEATHS GO UNAVENGED!
"THE PROCESS TOOK YEARS, BUT I FINALLY AWOKE, ALIVE...

MEANWHILE, THE HYPERKIND--IN THEIR EVERYDAY GUISES OF LISA MORFITT, KENNY ZAMBETTI, GEORGE YONEDA, AND DYAN DIVINE--EXIT THE HIDDEN PAXIS LABORATORY...
...TO DISCOVER THE TROOP-MOVER THEY LIBERATED FROM PARAGON JOHN--IN A STATE OF SIEGE!
HEY! BACK OFF, YOU JERKS!
LOOKS LIKE THE PARTY'S OVER, JACK!
AWWW--SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS GETTIN' P.O.ED WHEN WE HAVE A LITTLE FUN!
HEY! TAGGIN'S AN ART! THEY SHOULD PAY US FOR SPIFFIN' UP THEIR WHEELS!
SHEESH, THAT CAMPER ALREADY LOOKS LIKE SOMETHIN' FROM A MOON LANDING!
I DON'T GET IT, DYAN! WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO JUST DESTROY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY GAIN?
TRY TO UNDERSTAND, LISA--THEY'VE GOT TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS, TOO MUCH ANGER IN THEIR VEINS...
...NOT TO MENTION TOO MUCH TESTOSTERONE FOR THEIR OWN GOOD...
LATER, CHUMPS!
I GUESS I JUST WASN'T RAISED THAT WAY!
WELL, LITTLE MISS JUDGMENT--NEITHER WAS I. BUT AS LONG AS WE STOLE THIS FROM THE PARACORPS TO SAVE YOUR BUTT--
SSSSTT
--WE MIGHT AS WELL FINISH REDECORATING!
HEY, THIS COMMUNICATOR AMBERTRANCE GAVE US...
FOR YEARS, I'VE SEARCHED FOR THE PAXIS, FOLLOWED THE RUMORS--UNTIL AT LAST THE PAXIS JUNIORS LED ME STRAIGHT TO YOUR HIDEOUT...
...OR SHOULD I CALL IT YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE?
--IT'S SOUNDING LIKE AMBERTRANCE'S IN MEGA-TROUBLE! WE'D BETTER HIT THE ROAD!
VROOM
THUP THUP
CALLING ALL PARACORPS! WE'VE SPOTTED THE STOLEN TROOPMOVER MOVING NORTH ON VINE, TOWARD THE HILLS!
NOW PURSUING!
OH, GREAT! THERE'S A PARAGON HELICOPTER FOLLOWING US--AND I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST LISA'S DAD BEING SNOOPY!
LEAVE MY DAD OUT OF THIS, GEORGE! HE DIDN'T ASK TO WORK FOR PARAGON JOHN--THE SADDAM HUSSEIN OF AMERICAN MASS MEDIA!

HAVING OPENED THE COM-LINK TO THE NEO-PAXIS, AMBERTRANCE PULLS OUT ANOTHER JEWEL FROM HER WAR CHEST!
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, MY LADY! IN RECONSTRUCTING MY BODY, THE ROBOSQUAD DID NOT LEAVE ME DEFENSELESS!
pop pop pop pop
bratta
LULO'S ELECTRO-BUBBLE FOR INSTANCE! MORE THAN POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH MERE BULLETS!
FOR 95 YEARS, SHE'S BEEN A FIGHTER, AND, ABE KEPT AT BAY BY QUO TECHNOLOGY, SHE'S NOT STOPPING NOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TWISTED DESIGNS YOU HAVE ON ME, LAZUREX--
--BUT YOU WON'T CAPTURE ME ALIVE TO PLAY YOUR GAMES!
bratta bratta
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, LOONCKA -- WITH PLAZ'S ATOM-PULSE!
PLOOSH
UNGH!
MY NAME IS AMBERTRANCE NOW, YOU DEVIL...
AND IF THE NEO-PAXIS DON'T RESPOND TO MY CALL SOON, I WON'T BE USING IT MUCH LONGER!
STRENGTH AND GRACE, CHILDREN...
AMBERTRANCE WAS ONE OF THE PAXIS -- SHE HOLDS THE ANSWERS TO EVERY QUESTION ABOUT OUR POWERS... OUR SECRET PAST!
WITHOUT HER HELP, I'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW...
...AND YET, IF THAT HELICOPTER FOLLOWS US TO THE HIDDEN HQ OF THE FAITHFUL, WE'LL HAVE PLAYED RIGHT INTO PARAGON JOHN'S HANDS!
THERE'S NO SHAKING THEM! WE HAVE TO STOP AND FIGHT!
IF WE LEAD THE PARACORPS TO AMBERTRANCE AND HER REBELLION, THE WORLD WILL NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH! WE CAN'T!
HEAR THAT ON THE WALKIE-TALKIE?! MORE GUNFIRE AND A HUGE EXPLOSION!
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?

LISA WEIGHS THE CONSEQUENCES--AND CHOOSES!
THUP
THUP
ANGRY RON!
KA KREESH
THIS IS LIFE AND DEATH, PEOPLE! WE'LL DEAL WITH OL' P.J. AND HIS MILITIA LATER--
RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT A LIFE TO PROTECT!
NO! NOT THE PARACORPS!
BLAST YOUR INTERFERENCE! I WILL NOT BE SWAYED FROM MY VENGEANCE!
BABOOSH
FLOOSH
HYPERKOND AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK!
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF NUCLEAR-POWERED CYBORG!
HE INCINERATED THAT 'COPTER!
BIG DEAL! HE'S STILL JUST PICKING ON LITTLE OLD LADIES!
SO, THE YOUNGLINGS HAVE ARRIVED! WITH CLARION'S HELP, YOUR PREDECESSORS BESTED MY ROBOSQUAD...
...BUT THAT WILL NOT BE SO EASY--NOW THAT LAZUREX PRIME WIELDS THEIR COMBINED MIGHT!
OKAY, UGLY! TIME TO FIGHT SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE!

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH AMBERTRANCE, LAZZY? CARE TO SHARE YOUR FEELINGS--FOR ALL TO SEE?
AS HER FRIENDS LOOK ON, A PANOPLY OF SUPER HEROES--THE FACES OF THE PAXIS--PLAYS BEFORE BLISS...
...AND THERE SHE FINDS THE FORM HER POWER ONCE INHABITED--AND TAKES IT AS HER OWN!
DREAMDANCE!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED ME! YOU!
NICE DISTRACTION, BLISS...
...BUT THEN DISTRACTING PEOPLE IS YOUR SPECIALTY, ISN'T IT?
HA!
CHOOM
CHOOM
HE'S HEADING FOR THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN!
BLISS--YOU GET AMBERTRANCE OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE, WHILE WE CHASE THIS NUTCASE DOWN!
HANG ON TIGHT, AMBERTRANCE! I'LL FLY YOU SOMEPLACE SAFER!
STOP! SHE'S DEAD!
YOU! YOU'RE PROJECTING DREAMDANCE!
PLEASE, PLEASE--MAKE HER GO AWAY!

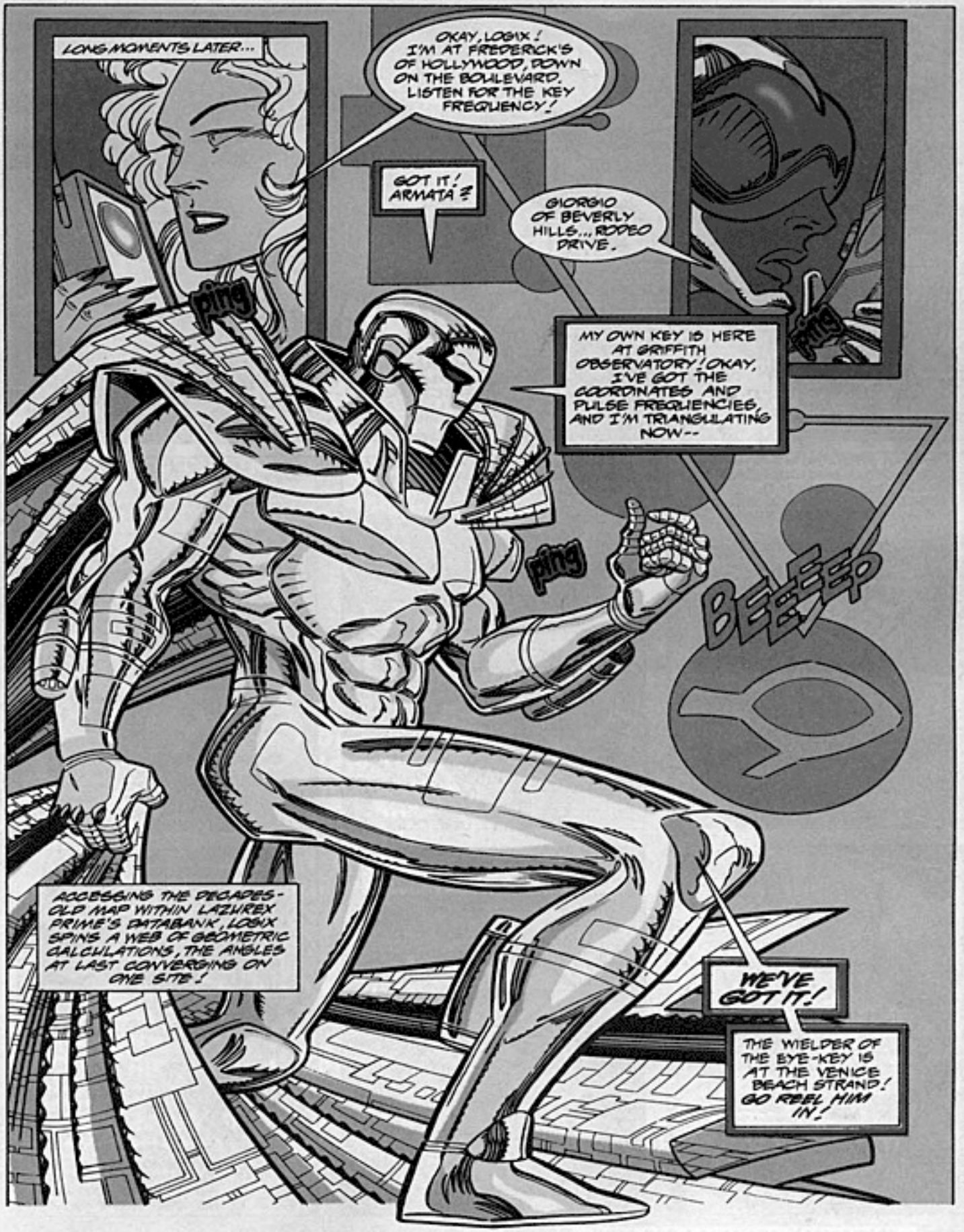
YOU FOOLISH YOUTHS--IT TOOK THE POWER OF CLARION TO DEFEAT ME BEFORE--
--AND NOW HE'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN! DESTROYED WITH THE REST OF THE PAXIS!
I'M SCANNING HIM NOW, AND LAZUREX PRIME'S ASSERTION MAY JUST BE CORRECT!
THANKS FOR THE UPPER, LOGIX!
WITHOUT HIS POWER, I'LL MAKE MINCEMEAT OF THE REST OF YOU!
IF ONLY THE FIFTH POWER SARCOPHAGI WAS STILL OURS TO USE!
I SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A SWEAT!
SO YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE POWER OF UNIVERSAL CONSCIOUSNESS!
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU TRIED THE AMOKOK WORKOUT, YOU JERK!
NO PAIN, NO GAIN, METAL BRAIN!
SQUIF'S EXTENDO-ARMS WILL MEET YOU HALFWA--
CHANG
YOUR TECHNOLOGY JUST BECAME OBSOLETE, BUDDY!
VEEMM
NOO!
KATANG
FWOOP

HOW'D YOU GET ON THIS GUY'S BAD SIDE?
WE PAXIS KILLED LAZUREX AND HIS ROBO-SQUAD FORTY YEARS AGO--OR SO WE THOUGHT!
ANY WORDS OF WISDOM ON GETTING THE NEW, IMPROVED VERSION OFF OUR CASE?!
NOW I CAN CONTROL SQUIF'S TENTACLES BY REMOTE! LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THIS STRAIGHT-JACKET!
IT WAS CLARION'S MIGHT THAT TURNED THE TIDE IN OUR LAST BATTLE! IF SOMEONE HAS THE FIFTH POWER...
...WE'D BETTER FIND IT FAST!
GLOAT JUST A LITTLE LONGER, PE-BUTT...
HA!
"...AND I'LL HAVE TIME TO DIGITALIZE MYSELF--ACCESSING THIS DATA PORT IN YOUR SKULL..."
...AND TAKING YOU OUT FROM THE INSIDE!
NOW, LET'S COME UP WITH A SUB-ROUTINE TO KEEP YOU BUSY FOR A WHILE...
...MAYBE YOU CAN SOLVE MY LOVE LIFE -- DYAN AND LISA SURE MAKE MY HEAD SPIN!
ZZZT
MY BUDDY LOGIX GIVIN' YOU A MIGRAINE, OLD MAN?
WHAT IS... THE MEASURE... OF... LOVE...?
CANNOT... COMPUTE...!
AUTOMATIC DEFENSES COME TO LIFE AS THE CYBORG'S MASSIVE RAM UNITS ARE OVERRUN BY THE ROGUE QUERY...

ELECTRO-BUBBLE... SHORT-CIRCUITING!
HURGH!
ZZAP!
...BUT AMOKK GRABS HOLD-- THOUSANDS OF VOLTS SPARKING THROUGH HIS METAL ARMS...
WHEW! LOOKS LIKE VIDEO-HEAD BLEW A FUSE!
BUT IF LOGIX WAS INSIDE--!
JUST A LITTLE SCRAMBLED, AMOKK! GOOD JOB! ONLY PROBLEM IS...
...I MAY HAVE TO GET USED TO MY NEW SURROUNDINGS...
...FOR IT APPEARS I'M TRAPPED!
A VICTORY?
A DEFEAT...
LOGIX IS STUCK IN THIS JETSONS REJECT!
JUST LIKE YOU WERE ONCE, AMBERTRANCE...
HISTORY REPEATS... HE IS TRAPPED AS... LOGICKA WAS ONCE.
AND THEN, ONLY CLARION'S POWER COULD BREAK THE BONDS!
THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND WHOEVER STOLE THE FIFTH POWER!

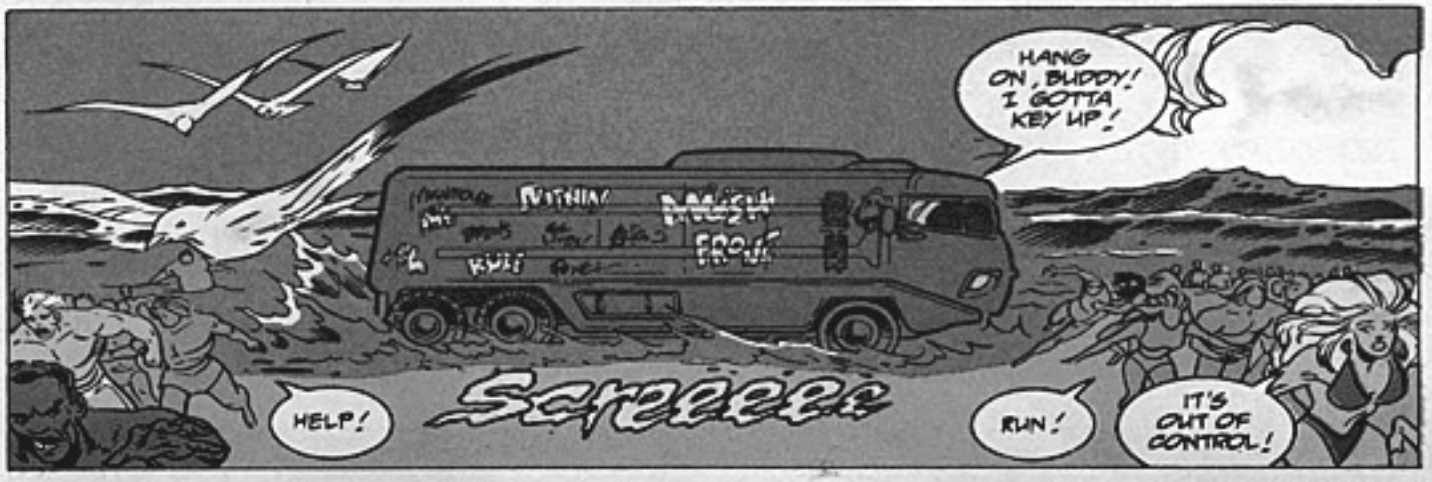
WELL, THE KEY SHOULD BE CALLING WHOEVER IT IS. REMEMBER HOW MY KEY ALERTED ME THAT YOU WERE IN TROUBLE--GUIDED ME TO YOU?*
*SEE HYPERKIND #3. --EVER-HELPFUL MARC
HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S NOT THERMAKK WHO TOOK THE POWER?
HE DID KNOW WHERE IT WAS HIDDEN...
HE CAN'T USE THE SARCOPHAGI. IF HE HAD RECLAIMED THE POWER, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE VESSEL AND ALL!
LET ME SEE YOUR KEYS...
I CAN PULL OUT MINE...
THE SPARE! DON'T LEAVE YOURSELF POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF DANGER!
SPARE?
THAT'S RIGHT! ESCHBACHER GAVE ME TWO KEYS.
I PUT ONE OF THEM INTO THE SARCOPHAGUS--TO GET IT TO WORK!
WELL, IT OBVIOUSLY DID, SO NOW YOU CAN REMOVE IT FROM THE GUO VESSEL!
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT AS SOON AS WE BEGAN THINKING ABOUT FINDING OUR FIFTH MEMBER, THE KEYS BEGAN TO PULSE?
THEY'RE SEEKING THE MISSING KEY--AT OUR MENTAL COMMAND!
"TRIANGULATION IS A LOT MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE HIT OR MISS METHOD AMOKK USED TO FIND US BEFORE...
HEY, I THOUGHT I DID PRETTY GOOD!
PRETTY!
ping
"...I'M SURE I CAN TRIANGULATE OFF THE KEYS--IF WE HAVE SOME WAY TO COMMUNICATE."
THE FAITHFUL ARE ALWAYS PROVIDED FOR!

INSIDE LAZUREX PRIME'S FATAX UNIT, LOSIX'S ELECTRICAL GHOST PLAYS HAVOC...
THERE HAS TO BE AN ACCURATE MAP OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY STORED IN HERE SOMEWHERE!
WITHOUT IT, THIS FRANKENSTEIN CYBORG WOULD NEVER FIND HIS WAY AROUND! AND NEITHER WILL WE!
FOUND IT! BUT NOW COMES THE HARD PART!
...LOVE...LOST... LOS...ANGELES...
BLISS AND ARMATA--TAKE TO THE AIR AND LET ME KNOW YOUR LOCATION BY CELLULAR COMMUNICATOR.
I'LL USE THE DIFFERENCES IN PULSEBEAT TO FIGURE DISTANCES--AND YOUR LOCATIONS TO COME UP WITH THE ANGLE TO OUR QUARRY. IF I CONCENTRATE, I CAN PINPOINT THE LAST KEY.
ONLY CLARION'S POWER CAN RELEASE YOUR FRIEND--AND LOSIX'S CONTROL OVER LAZUREX PRIME CAN'T LAST!
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!
GO--I SHOULD JUST LIKE... GO SOMEWHERE?
AND TRY NOT TO COME BACK...
THAT GOT 'EM MOVIN'--NOW I'D BETTER FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO THE SAME WITH OUR CALENDAR BOY FOR BAD ORAL HYGIENE...
...'CAUSE GEORGE HAS GOT SOME DRIVIN' TO DO!


LONG MOMENTS LATER...
OKAY, LOGIX! I'M AT FREDERICK'S OF HOLLYWOOD, DOWN ON THE BOULEVARD. LISTEN FOR THE KEY FREQUENCY!
GOT IT! ARMATA?
GIORGIO OF BEVERLY HILLS... RODEO DRIVE.
ping
MY OWN KEY IS HERE AT GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY! OKAY, I'VE GOT THE COORDINATES AND PULSE FREQUENCIES, AND I'M TRIANGULATING NOW--
ping
BEEEP
ACCESSING THE DECADES-OLD MAP WITHIN LAZUREX PRIME'S DATABANK, LOGIX SPINS A WEB OF GEOMETRIC CALCULATIONS, THE ANGLES AT LAST CONVERGING ON ONE SITE!
WE'VE GOT IT!
THE WIELDER OF THE BYE-KEY IS AT THE VENICE BEACH STRAND! GO REEL HIM IN!

"VENICE BEACH?" BUT EVERYBODY AT VENICE BEACH LOOKS LIKE A SUPER HERO, LOGIX!"
"NOBODY SAID IT WOULD BE EASY, ARMATA! AMOKK HAS LOADED ME INTO THE TROOP-MOVER-- WE'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS TRAFFIC ALLOWS..."
WITH A SPACED-OUT POWER LIKE "GOD CONSCIOUSNESS," HALF THESE BEACH BUMS COULD BE THE NEW CLARION! WE MAY NEVER SEE KENNY AGAIN...
LUCKY US!
LISA, KENNY WOULD NEVER JUST WRITE YOU OFF THAT WAY! YOU SAY YOU LOVE HIM--BUT ALL I SEE IS HATE!
FWAK
.....
LOOK, LET'S STAY ON TRACK... WHO COULD'VE HAD ACCESS TO OUR HEADQUARTERS? THERMAKK LEFT--AND HE TOOK ESCHBACHER'S BODY WITH HIM...
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT FLEA-BIT HOUND OF ESCHBACHER'S?
OH, RIGHT--THE HYPERKIND WELCOME THEIR FIFTH MEMBER... GOD-DOG!
LAUGH ALL YOU WANT--BUT UP THERE ON THE MURAL... ISN'T THAT THE EGYPTIAN EYE THING WE'RE LOOKING FOR?
BLISS-- I COULD SWEAR IT JUST... WINKED AT ME!
I'LL FLOAT UP AND CHECK IT OUT...
"...AFTER ALL, YOU NEED EVERY DATE YOU CAN GET!"
ping
ping
ping
THERE'S DEFINITELY A CONSCIOUSNESS HERE--BUT IT'S NOT HUMAN...
...IT IS THE DOG! IT'S TALKING IN MY HEAD--SAYS HIS NAME IS ECKA! I'LL TALK TO HIM...
NOW, ECKA-- WE'RE YOUR NEW FAMILY! WE'RE HYPERKIND JUST LIKE YOU-- AND WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE NEED YOUR HELP!

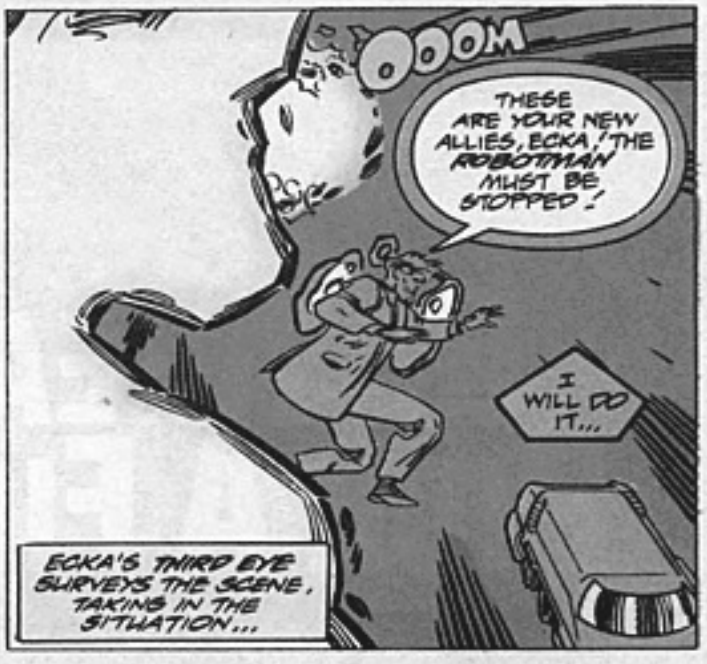
SKRAK!
YOU ARE NOT MY FAMILY... YOU ARE HUMANS!
JUMBO HOT DOGS! GET 'EM HERE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
CRIPES!
LOOK, ECKA! YOU TOOK ONE OF ESCHBACHER'S POWERS! YOU HAVE TO EITHER HELP US--OR GIVE IT BACK!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF MY LOST FRIEND... OF ESCHBACHER?!
OF COURSE!
TAPPING INTO THE DOG'S ADVANCED CONSCIOUSNESS, BLISS DELIVERS THE VISAGE OF THE MAN ECKA SEEKS...
...ESCHBACHER!
YOUR LOYALTY AND HELP ARE NEEDED, ECKA!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US FREE OUR FRIEND!
BUT FOR LOGIX, THAT HELP MAY COME TOO LATE!
THERE IS NO MEASURE OF LOVE, BECAUSE THERE IS NO LOVE!
GEORGE! LAZUREX PRIME IS BACK IN CONTROL! HE'S ELECTRONICALLY SCRAMBLING MY--
AARRGH!
I WILL WASTE NO MORE TIME ON YOUR RIDICULOUS QUESTIONS!


HANG ON, BUDDY! I GOTTA KEY UP!
SCREEEE
HELP!
RUN!
IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!

FWASH
GROWWR

LOGIX AND LAZUREX PRIME -- SOMEHOW THEY'RE MERGING!
GOTTA GET INTO THAT ELECTRO-SHOCK BUBBLE!
ZZZAT
HELLP MEEE...

LET LOGIX GO, YOU ONE-MAN ENERGY CRISIS!
CHOOM
PLEASE, KENNY! YOU'VE GOT TO BE OKAY!
I DON'T HATE YOU... REALLY, I DON'T...


OOOM
THESE ARE YOUR NEW ALLIES, ECKA! THE ROBOTMAN MUST BE STOPPED!
I WILL DO IT...
ECKA'S THIRD EYE SURVEYS THE SCENE, TAKING IN THE SITUATION...

HE'S OUT OF CONTROL--ACTIVATING HIS ATOM-SMASHERS! HE-- UNGH!
FLOOSH
I WEARY OF THIS BATTLE! PREPARE FOR YOUR DESTRUCTION!
LAZUREX PRIME IS BACK-- AND NASTIER THAN EVER! BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR LOGIX?
I GUESS IT'S ALL UP TO ESCHBACHER'S MUTT NOW! KENNY'S LIFE IS IN HIS, UH, PAWS!
WHO'D'VE THOUGHT THOSE GUO MACHINES WOULD POWER UP A DOG!
SPLURSH
WAIT! THAT LIGHT! BRIGHTER THAN WHEN WE TRANSFORM...
SO YOU ARE THE ONE CALLED LAZUREX PRIME--NEITHER MAN NOR MACHINE...
...AND LESS THAN EITHER! AS A HUMAN, YOU WERE CHARGED WITH THE PROPER USE OF YOUR WONDROUS IMAGINATION...
...AND AS A MACHINE, YOU WERE TO BE A TOOL FOR CIVILIZATION'S CONTINUING EVOLUTION!
OOOOOMMEHT
OOOOOMMEHT
IN BOTH, YOU HAVE FAILED!

THE LIGHT... NOOO!
WHY WILL YOU TINY SCIENTISTS NOT LEARN YOUR LESSON?!
YOU WERE GIVEN GREAT INTELLECT TO ENJOY--TO DECODE THE COSMIC BLUEPRINT...
...BUT THE DIVINE MATHEMATICS WERE NEVER YOUR CREATION!
FWUD
ACCEPT YOUR PLACE AS SUBSET OF A GREATER UNIVERSE--
FREE! HE DID IT!
...OR YOUR ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER IT WILL DESTROY YOU!
EVEN IN CHAOS, THERE IS HIDDEN ORDER. THINK ABOUT THAT...
LET ME GO!
...IN A LIFE TO COME!
ZZZT
LLP
YOU HUMANS ARE SO STRANGE! YOU COULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE!
BUT IT'S NEVER ENOUGH, ECKA!
THERE'S ALWAYS THE FEAR... AND THE LONGING!
BUT WHAT ABOUT LAZUREX PRIME?

HE WILL BOTHER YOU NO MORE... GIRL - WHO IS NOT - ESCHBACHER...
I--I HAD TO TRICK YOU. I'M SORRY.
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOUR SCENT WAS WRONG...
I SEE.
...OLD WINE, CIGARETTES, CAR EXHAUST, HAMBURGERS-- THAT WAS ESCHBACHER'S PERFUME...
...WORN OVER A KIND OF UNCERTAINTY, A SAD SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS THAT I COULD SPOT IN ANY CROWD.
BUT... MY FRIEND IS LONG GONE. TRACES OF HIS SOUL REMAIN-- BUT THEY ARE NOT PARTS OF HIM I WISH TO KNOW.
THEN WHY DID YOU HELP US?
WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT NEEDING MY LOYALTY AND HELP... IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT FORM SAID THOSE THINGS...
...YOU SPOKE THE TRUTH... AND I HEARD IT IN MY MASTER'S VOICE.
G-GOODBYE ECKA! THANK YOU...
AT LEAST WE'LL KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM...
...BUT WHY WOULD A BEING WITH UNIVERSAL CONSCIOUSNESS WANT TO LIVE IN A WALL?
WE WILL LEAVE BLISS TO CONTEMPLATE SUCH COSMIC VAGARIES ON HER WAY BACK...

...TO FAITHFUL HEADQUARTERS!
HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND...
THANK YOU, CHILD... NOW YOU MUST GO...
HOLD IT!
SINCE WE GOT THESE POWERS, WE'VE BEEN JUMPIN' AND REACTING!
I WANT TO STOP TAKING ORDERS AND GET SOME ANSWERS!
THERE'S-- THERE'S A LOT WE NEED TO KNOW...
VERY WELL. FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS, WE THOUSAND FAITHFUL HAVE STRUGGLED IN SECRET TO HANG ONTO THE TRUE PAST...
...THE HISTORY STOLEN BY PARAGON JOHN'S BRAINWASHING.
WE HAVE FOUGHT TO KEEP THE HEROIC IDEALS OF THE AXIS ALIVE IN A FEW HEARTS, SO THAT DARKNESS WOULD NOT CONSUME THE SOULS OF ALL WOMEN AND MEN.
"BUT PRIDEFUL ESCHBACHER CHANGED ALL THAT!
"HE PASSED THE QUO KEYS--THE POWERS--TO YOU!"
THERE ARE YOUR ANSWERS! IF YOU TAKE THEM WISELY, A FUTURE EXISTS FOR HUMANITY--
"--A FUTURE YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS.
"I TRUST YOU WILL DO THE RIGHT THING. STRENGTH AND GRACE ...HYPERKIND."
NEXT: WATCH OUT FOR THE HYPERKIND SPECIAL, ON SALE THIS SUMMER! CHECK OUT THE LETTERS PAGE FOR DETAILS!

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
RAZORLINE
c/o MARVEL
387 PARK AVE. SO.
NEW YORK, NY 10016

MARC McLAURIN • EDITOR
SPENCER LAMM • ASST. EDITOR
MALCOLM SHEPPARD • CONSULTING EDITOR

HYPERKIND

Marc McLaurin

the end of the road

Maybe we can't see it from here. Maybe it will take time and distance to instill upon this series the glow of an object of quality, but it will happen. Years from now, this full first run of HYPERKIND may be unearthed by some lucky individual who will be treated, as you were, to the birth of a legend. It will happen for some as a new experience. For you readers of this column; both those here from the beginning and those latecomers who still got a thrilling ride; for you, the glow has probably already begun. That makes it that much harder to put out this, the final issue of the first run of HYPERKIND.

But it's not without a sense of accomplishment that we sign off. We did *do* something, here.

something different

We changed the expectations of thousands of comic readers, actually providing something more than just dazzling visuals—daring to bring the *reading* back to *comics reading*. We challenged imaginations by introducing the pieces of our puzzle one by one, even in different titles, defying you to guess at the larger picture before the last section was revealed. And I think we provided some real excitement, and more than a few surprises along the way.

And now, with a sigh and a tear, we turn the last page of this epic. So long. That's it. No more.

No way. We're not done yet. Not by a long shot.

something special

This summer, keep your eyes peeled for the first HYPERKIND SPECIAL, an amazing 48-page extravaganza that will redefine the heroes of the '90's, and usher them into a new age of adventure! The saga of our new Hyperkind will take them to the end of the universe and...but wait...that would be telling.

For those of you who've come to know and love the Neo-Paxis, lets just say that writer **Fred Burke** promises that the special will fulfill your greatest hopes, and your worst nightmares for these characters. Their lives will, once again, be irrevocably changed by the powers they've acquired. A dramatic revelation will upset their status quo, with repercussions rocking throughout the world. This is the story this series merely preludes, and it promises all the suspense, action and excitement you've come to expect, and more. The vivacious visuals for this will be brought to you by **Roger Cruz**, the penciler who knocked your socks off in issue #8! He's looking forward to a run with these heroes that's every bit as dynamic and dramatic as his predecessor, Paris Cullins, delivered! And that's just the beginning.

something new

We'll also be featuring two ECTOKID SPECIALS during the summer months to alleviate your yearning for the unique, and the changes in his life will be equally enthralling! These stories will provide much more bang for your buck, and turn the Ectokid you know and love inside-out! Which is all just our way of asking you to stick around—because the best is yet to come!

And in the meantime, keep your cards and letters coming! Each and every one is read here, before being forwarded to Clive Barker, and we thrive on your feedback. Tell us what we're doing right, but more importantly, what you'd like to see that we're *not* delivering! We won't have another letters page to ask for your letters for a while, so keep 'em coming!

Until next time in the HYPERKIND SPECIAL, thanks to you heroes for keeping the faith. We'll do our best to give you the dreams you've been looking for.

Strength and grace to you, heroes. Strength and grace.

THE FACTS OF HYPER-LIFE

You're holding in your hands our last monthly *Hyperkind* issue for a while—but don't despair! We've got two extra-length specials coming (one for summer and one for winter), and if they garner a strong response, we'll be back for good.

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

In some ways, capitalism is the ultimate democracy. You vote with your dollars and elect the products of your choice. (Of course, some people just happen to possess more votes in their wallets than others, so it's not the *fairest* of electoral systems...but every vote definitely counts.) We chose to launch the Razorline just as a number of new candidates entered the race—and it's been very hard to get noticed. Comic book stores have started to limit the number of ballots available, so many voters never even got a chance to pull the lever for *Hyperkind*. Here's what you can do:

1) Ask your friends to check out this issue of *Hyperkind*.
2) Dig into those back issue bins at your local comics shop and complete your collection of Razorlines.
3) Ask the manager of your comics shop to reserve you a copy of the first *Hyperkind* special.
4) Keep your letters coming in! We read 'em—and we want to know what you think!

LINE

RAZORLINE:

I recently arrived in the world of comics after I read in the *Austin Chronicle* about the pending release of Razorline. I like it! My initial attraction was the fact that Clive Barker was associated with these comics. I thought it was a great idea to bring together a group of creative people, give them a framework, and let them finish it out. When reading one of the comics, it is like I am at a seance where Clive is telling a story through the medium. In other words, I'm receiving this story due to a collective, the open minds, Clive's channeled spirit, and great parlor tricks.

I would suggest that Clive's works be required reading for all staff. I read King if I want perfect character descriptions, and Koontz for technology and thrill. Both writers churn out books about as quickly as your comics. I am not trying to discount these writers in the least, for both of them can keep you turning pages, but their books don't lend themselves to remembrance quite like Barker's. He creates interactive worlds (as you are beginning to do) through feelings and thoughts. He is quite descriptive and yet he is not. Reading a Barker book is an entirely unique experience to each individual, because the language is more on a feeling level than a picturesque.

I guess what I am saying is, keep doing what you are doing and remember that among the ink and colors, the reader's imagination is another one of your tools to use. Create questions, build suspense, and leave things to the imagination.

Darin Davis
1250 Cap of Tx. Hwy. S.
Bld. III Suite 200
Austin, TX 78746

I've been "channeling Clive" for a number of years, Darin—and I really like your metaphor! In *Clive Barker, Illustrator* and its sequel, I tried to give readers the most undiluted view of Clive we could conjure, using both his words and his pictures. Before taking on the Hyperkind, I adapted many of Clive's short stories into comics—so I've read *all* of his prose fiction. Without that grounding, our work here at Marvel would have far less resonance. Thanks for writing.

Hey, Hyperkind,

Hyperkind #5 was another perfect issue in an unbroken string of successes. Everyone involved did their

usual trend-setting best and should be properly congratulated.

Many of the questions I had have been thoroughly answered and then some! Paragon John is a truly classic villain. Of course, I know the Zona won't keep him dispatched for long. And speaking of Zona, how utterly Barkeresque! I figure the effects of this horrible drug on the collective unconscious of humanity created that black fetal apparition from issue #3. I'm also quite certain we haven't seen the last of these unholy manifestations.

Finally we get to see the original Paxis in all their glory. I really like these flashback sequences, and I hope to see more of them. One thing did strike me, though: Z-Man abandons his career in grief, Clarion disperses in an attempt to know God, and Logicka vanishes in the wake of Paragon John's skewed arguments. Maybe the Paxis weren't really the heroes they thought they were. Maybe Lisa, Kenny, George, and Dyan were really the ones the powers were meant for. Makes you think...

For all the questions this issue answered, an equal number of mysteries arose. This book really keeps me on the edge of my seat! What happened to the fifth power? Will we ever see Z-Man or Logicka again? Whatever became of Dr. Transom and the Zaniacs? And just what the heck were the Horusian-Anubisti Earth Wars?

I told you after reading the first issue that **Hyperkind** would be a great comic and that I'll be around for every issue. Clive should be proud!

Don Massi
590 Lower Landing Rd. #213
Blackwood, NJ 08012

In our upcoming *Hyperkind* specials, you'll learn a lot more about the Horusian-Anubisti Earth Wars. Don! You're right on target about issue #3's infamous blobthings—and they will be back some day. As for who the powers were *meant* for...we've still got some surprises up our sleeves!

Marc—

IT'S GOTTA BE CARLOS! It just has to be, considering I have to have **Hyperkind** #11 it's the only Razorline title I don't have!

The stories keep getting better! Keep up the good work! At first I was a little skeptical about the future of **Hyperkind**. It just seemed a little too "normal" as far as comics go. Thanks for proving me wrong. You push the "reluctant hero" thing far beyond where it's been before. Too many writers forget about the duality of people when creating something new. When you create a situation where the battle between good and evil goes on inside one individual (let alone four!), it seems a lot more believable and intriguing! Thanks!

Michael J. Baker
4211 Appian Way W.
Gavianna, OK 43230

Carlos was the winner in Marc's "who gets the fifth power?" contest! Since the recipient of the fifth power has been revealed this issue to be the mighty mongrel, your answer gets a big buzzer, Micheal! But because so many chimed in with requests to see more of Carlos, you've started things buzzing—and we will definitely feature Carlos more prominently in our next series!

Marc McLaurin—

I have a guess as to who is the owner of the fifth power in the **Hyperkind** series. My entire theory is based on the person in the shadows in #7 with all the eyes. The only person I know who looked like that was Zodiac, who I glimpsed once in a thumbed-through **Ghost Rider**. But I don't know if the worlds of the Decamundi are ready for a crossover outside their walls yet. Plus, you mentioned the return of Tempest, and it could very well be her in the shadows; having been taken apart by Z-Man, who knows how she looks now. The only other many-eyed image I have is of one of Clive Barker's original drawings of Godkin Straith from **Hokum & Hex**, and I really hope he's not getting involved. If the person in the shadows is unrelated, and I guess we'll know by #8, then my guess is for Eschbacher. Who can have greater "God-consciousness" than a living spirit? Well, anyway, I'm out of here...

Mike Lipari
Box 294
3000 Woodrow Way
Atlanta, GA 30319

Dear Razorline,

Oh, no! I picked up my **Hyperkind** #7 a week after it's been released! Now, I know that people have already written in, but here is my submission for the keeper of the fifth power:

It's Eschbacher himself. First of all, you can't say that the guy wasn't all-knowing. Maybe mistaken about the kids' strengths, but he certainly had it down with information and morals of the Paxis. Secondly, in the preview of the second issue, he fights the creature inside the computer, saying that he believes in the way of the Paxis and that he is "individuality," meaning that, if the remaining old Paxis are dead or forgotten, he is left with Clarion's power. He is in direct contact with the sarcophagi through the computer, is stuck in the system of the old movie theatre, and could probably take the power if he thought it would benefit the Hyperkind. With his past experience and forgotten memories to be unraveled, he'd make the perfect leader for the team who can't decide on one! He's already conquered the computer's beast, which means he's ready to be communicated with through the system. It's only so long before Logix fixes the machinery he destroyed. Finally, your hints about the uses of god-like power are shown when the old man not only adapts to fly, but also creates a bayonet on his hand and rips out a chunk of cement! Can't get more god-like than that!

Ah, well, whatever the outcome, you can bet your red-leather-razor-handed buttons I'll be there! Until Kenny gets a real relationship, long live Hyperkind!

Jeff LaSalle
3649 Ligon Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Now the Eschbacher contingent has weighed in! Nope—he's got enough power as it is. Check out the first Hyperkind special this summer for more on the ghost in the Paxis machine...

Dear Razorliners,

As regards the fifth power, my guess is that the recipient is Trip Munroe, super-magician. My second guess—Phil Fetter. See you in **Hyperkind** #9!

Robert W. Oetz
1411 Sinkler Rd.
Warminster, PA 18974

Several people have misconstrued something Trip said in *Hyperkind* #6. Trip is a hyperkind—someone with extraordinary powers. Amokk is a member of The Hyperkind, the kids' name for the neo-Paxis team. Ah, the joys of Decamundi grammar!

Dear Razorline,

I just recently purchased one of your comics called **Hyperkind**. After I bought the first issue, I bought the second one and am now collecting the rest of the series. I want to tell you your comics of The Hyperkind are great and that I am a big collector and an artist, and if you need any ideas just write me back. Thank you.

Chad Malanovich
Box 954 Canora, Sask.
SOA OLO Canada

Although I've got enough stories to fill this book for quite a while, Chad, I should point out that *Hyperkind* is here for you, our readers. Let us know which stories you love, which stories you hate...it's the only way we can promise to deliver the comic book reading experience you crave! See you this summer!

—Fred Burke

MARVEL RAZORLINE